



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes May 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber located at 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Connie Baker, Greta Connor, Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Suzanne Casey and Suzette Davis

Staff: Mark Lewis, Diana Moghrabi and Lynn Raker

The minutes of the April 2, 2008, meeting were approved. The financials were approved. Barbara Perry will continue as Chair of the CAC and Sarah Robinson will continue as Vice Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The new committee structure is as follows:

MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT GRANT

Bill Safrit, Chair

Connie Baker

Suzette Davis

Diane Gibbs

Sean Meyers

Randy Hemann, ad hoc

Joe Morris, ad hoc

LANDSCAPING

Suzette Davis, Chair

Suzanne Casey

Greta Connor

Diane Gibbs

Barbara Lawther

Tom Wolpert

INNES STREET IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Bill Safrit, Chair

Connie Baker

Suzette Davis

Diane Gibbs

Sean Meyers

Randy Hemann, ad hoc

Joe Morris, ad hoc

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

Greta Connor, Chair

Suzanne Casey

Barbara Perry

Sara Robinson

Bill Safrit

NEIGHBORHOODS & EDUCATION

Greta Connor, Chair

Sean Meyers

Barbara Perry

Sara Robinson

Bill Safrit

AWARDS 2010

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Barbara Perry, Chair (PAC)

Connie Baker

Barbara Lawther

Sara Robinson (PAC)

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

The Neighborhoods & Education Committee will meet May 28, at 5 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall.

- Greta Connor stated that the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance (NLA) met April 24, at 4 p.m., at One Water Street. Fifteen neighborhoods were represented, and it was a good meeting. A detailed report was included in the agenda package.
- The NLA formed a subcommittee to discuss the vicious dog issue. A meeting was set for Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 4 p.m., at City Hall in the first floor conference room.
- The Neighborhood Leaders Alliance liked Mark Lewis's request for a top ten list of the worst houses in the city. The NLA wants to see more results on the issue of better housing and keep the issue alive. There has been a lot of work over a long period and they are very disappointed that more has not happened. (This is addressed under new business.)
- People appreciated the adopt-a-street kits that were offered at the meeting.

Art in Public Places

- The subcommittee had their third meeting about the annual sculpture show.
- Connie and Michael Baker invited the public art committee to hold their regular monthly meeting at their home where they are having an artists show.
- Progress has been made on the Cotton Mill project. Tentative plans are to have a workshop at the Water Works Visual Art Center for teachers on the 20th of August, which is a teacher workday.
- June 28 there will be a brunch at the Rowan Museum for the dedication of the Wiley Lash plaque. Invitations will be mailed. The plaque will be installed on the wall at 132 N. Main Street, where Wiley Lash served as mayor of Salisbury 1981-1985. He was the first, and so far the only, African American mayor. He also had a business in the 100 block of E. Council Street. His family will be in town that day for a reunion.

Landscaping

Diane Gibbs reported that the Landscape of the Month (LOM) Committee met prior to today's CAC meeting. The committee will drive by to see Ada Fisher's house, Norde Wilson's, and the house on the corner of Bank and Lee Streets. Wendy's on Innes St., 531 East Innes, and Parks on S. Main will also be reviewed.

The May commercial LOM winner was later decided via email as 531 E. Innes Street - phone #704-633-2050. Charles and Lynn Parks still own the building but have leased it to Wentworth Interior Design. They are not open yet but plan to open soon.

The May residential LOM winner later decided via email was 1505 Statesville Blvd., Taylor Jones & M.A. Hedgepeth - phone # 704-638-5752.

Diane Gibbs designed a thank you card to recognize winners of the LOM award.

Grants

All money has been allocated. Lynn Raker is awaiting a call from Mickey Black about whether he intends to do his project at the Emporium (close to \$4,000 grant). He was going to do an extensive mortar repair on his Kerr Street facade. There are a couple of other projects that could receive this money.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Lewis addressed the CAC about issues that are studied and presented to City Council—then nothing happens. He has seen many wonderful presentations, but the money just does not follow.

The preliminary budget was released to city staff management. Mr. Lewis discussed the level one goals, the costs, and the recommendation from the city manager. The final budget has not been approved. The economy is not too good right now. How does CAC get the money it wants for projects? Take it a step further. Make phone calls and send emails to your elected officials. Get involved with the budget.

Annexation plans had included an additional nuisance abatement officer; since the annexation plan was not approved, neither was the position. The addition of a **code enforcement officer** is a priority that CAC wishes to advocate.

Downtown Salisbury, Inc. is working on the commercial code; the CAC is concentrating on the residential problems. The better housing issue needs a “cause champion.” Mr. Lewis cannot do it alone as a liaison. He agrees that Salisbury’s Ordinances are not strict enough.

Barbara Perry reiterated the outcries from the neighborhood leaders. The housing problem has been worked on, addressed, and presented to City Council—several times. Something needs to happen soon. Staff and a grass roots effort had the same findings. What is the role of the CAC now? We (CAC) would like the City form a **housing commission**. (The NAACP supports this, too.) The City Council listed the better housing issue as a level one goal at their retreat.

Mr. Lewis recommended that the neighborhood leaders come to speak at the public hearing. They could be organized to advocate a budget that allows a housing commission and an additional code enforcement officer. Greta Connor, Barbara Perry and Lynn Raker stayed after

the meeting to organize how they would contact neighborhood leaders and prepare them for the May 20 City Council meeting. Greta said she believes there will not be a problem getting the leaders to speak credibly and in unity.

Mark Lewis added that the parking lot at Bernhardt's/former Rufty's should be developed this year.

OLD BUSINESS

- The NCDOT property on East Innes Street (across from Kinko's) has been cleaned up by the City.
- NCDOT is allowing some landscape projects; this is good news for the I-85 interchange at Innes Street. The bid deadline for the medians and a limited section of sidewalks is the 19th of May. Lynn Raker has asked NCDOT to go ahead and bid the remaining project so a contractor is in place when the weather permits in the fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fred Evans and others in the community have commented that the main post office on Innes Street looks awful—there is trash, panhandling and loitering. The property is not taken care of and people visiting the facility fear for their safety. Barbara Perry asked if City Staff would send a letter on behalf of the CAC. Tom Wolpert wanted to send nine letters and recommended a letter to the editor of the *Salisbury Post*. Lynn Raker will mention the Innes Street Improvement Grant to the manager of the main post office in the event they would consider some new landscaping.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next regular CAC meeting will be June 4, 2008.